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and the pain will be less under the above treatment in half an hour after the accident, than in twelve hours continuance of cold applications or useless liniments.*

These are surely advantages which every humane man would wish his fellow-creature to enjoy, when suffering under one of the greatest of human calamities. Great, however, as they are, there is no doubt but the practice has been and will be considerably opposed; the practitioner, long accustomed to use a contrary plan, will not be easily persuaded of its injurious tendency; the tender parent and officious nurse, will guard against innovation, and every consideration will naturally give way to the desire of *present ease*, and the *temporary* removal of severe pain. A consideration of this, however, should not deter us from endeavouring to diffuse a general knowledge of a more rational treatment for an accident so distressing, which, since it cannot, like the small pox, be prevented, ought to be met as if expected, by all who are anxious for their own welfare, or the speedy recovery of a suffering friend.

J. MURRAY, Surgeon.

Church-street, Feb. 26, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

THE several sorts of words that compose a language, have their characteristic and definite features. The minute distinctions amongst these are only discernible by close observation. The same words in various uses of them grammatically, though not philosophically considered, become different parts of speech. Many writers have not evinced a sufficient regard to perspicuity in composition: their ideas have been either obscure, or they have unhappily fallen upon an intricate manner of communicating them. Ellipsis is sometimes so much indulged as to make construction and meaning ambiguous. Sentences are often made so long and complex, that the relations, which words and phrases bear to each other, are remote and doubtful. As the presentation of objects to the mind, and modes of thinking are various; so every composer has something peculiar to himself, in the order and construction of his sentences. Men eminent for literature, have widely differed on the grammar, etymology, and philosophy of the English language. Hence the original and bold theory of John Horne Tooke, A. M. in opposition to the writings of such famous literary characters as Lowth, Harris, and Johnson.

The English language is a medley derived from various sources. By the fondness of man for abbreviated, written, and especially oral communications; by the taste and refinement of those few learned, who have made the improvement of this language their study, it has by various modernizations departed far from its original form. Hence the difficulty of tracing its etymology. If many of its words are apparently, and few or none of them really synonimous, to know their true meaning, and proper application must be an accomplishment of difficult acquisition.

From these observations it is evident, that a considerable share of capacity in judging and reasoning; that a certain maturity of age, and ripeness of intellect are necessary requisites to proficiency in the knowledge of the English language. It will also follow from the foregoing premises, that in conducting the education of youth, it is an excellent mode by exercise of a simple and introductory kind to set those early to work upon the rudiments of English grammar, who are about to be favoured with a liberal education, or are designed to figure in some public profession. Labour and time are necessary to enable the learner to comprehend that connexion of speech and that accurate analysis of words and sentences which are essential to judicious parsing, as well as to that smooth and perspicuous arrangement of ideas in composition, and elocution which will qualify every scholar to move in his own literary sphere with reputation and general utility. To attempt to teach a language grammatically is

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* VIDE Kentish on Burns, and several papers on the same subject, in the London Medical and Physical Journal.

vain, when the period of attending school is very limited, when parents are averse to give their children a liberal education, or design them only for some mechanical employment. It is a useless waste of time to make pupils merely commit a grammar to memory, without acquainting them with the meaning, application, and end of its contents. To give such acquaintance many pedagogues never attempt, who nevertheless, to feed their own vanity, and swindle their employers, make, with pedantic consequence, an ostentatious parade of teaching English Grammar.

In the prosecution of classical learning, perfection in the knowledge and use of the mother tongue, is an object of the first consequence. To acquire this should be a constant and grand aim from the commencement to the termination of classical studies. Men are seldom called to speak or write in foreign languages. The accurate study of these, then, should ever be with a view to attain the more perfect knowledge of the genius, etymology, beauties, and masterly use of our own. Ignorant of it, our own pen exposes us, and we are liable to be detected at every opening of the mouth. The most accurate and critical erudition in the Latin and Greek languages will not qualify a man for writing or speaking good English. By this reasoning we mean not to depreciate the study of the classics. Those ancient compositions possess information and entertainment sufficient to reward the labours of the attentive and discerning student. The perfection of Grecian and Roman learning shine in them ; they display ancient manners, splendid virtues and heroic exploits in all the beauties of poetical and prose composition. They communicate important historical facts, and instruction as to the management of nations in peace and war. They contain bright models of variety and copiousness of expression, powers of invention, and strength of imagination; nor have their contents upon geography and agriculture been rendered obsolete by the lapse of time. No inconsiderable portion of the English language is to be traced to a Latin and Greek origin.

The old and vicious custom of learning Latin and Greek in schools, and never introducing an English grammar is happily almost extinct. While this plan was followed, men who could write Latin similar to the pure style of the Augustan age, were nevertheless blunderers in English composition. The literati now begin to think that the English is also a language, an accurate acquaintance with which youth may laudably cultivate. Had the Grecian and Roman writers held the knowledge of their native language as an object of minor importance, they would never have shone forth with such lustre in the republic of letters; nor would learned moderns and critics have enjoyed such opportunity of spreading their own literary fame by lavishing unlimited eulogies on the ancients.

Intellectual treasures, without a capacity to dispose of them for the best private and publick advantage, are as useless as the ore in the mine, or as the hoarded gold, while it remains in the coffers of the miser.

Without the knowledge of grammar, the orations of the public declaimer must exhibit at least a partial display of unintelligible jargon: and the compositions of that author, who possesses even the strongest mind, and produces the finest thoughts, will but merit the name of incoherent rhapsody. Deficient in this department of literature, which is the substratum of eloquence, the barrister is shackled in pleading the cause of his client, the counsels of the senator make slight impression, the statesman and patriot lamely support their country's rights, and bear with feeble force against the torrent of corruption; yea, the divine fails to arrest attention and strike the heart, though he promulgates the benign doctrines and precepts of religion. It will be granted, that in critical situations, when property, character, or life is at stake, the unlettered peasant of strong feelings may make an impressive speech: but still it will be infinitely inferior in point of influence, especially upon the cultivated mind, to that of the substantial grammarian, possessed of like feelings, and placed in a similar situation. Men having a good ear, as

well as sound and discerning judgment, who are daily conversant with correct speakers, may be able to speak and write with some degree of grammatical accuracy. Such persons, though they may be right, do not know it. They are taught by custom and observation, not by rudiments. For the alledged correctness of their productions they can produce no definite rule. A law is not easily kept, the precepts of which are unknown. Besides if these authors or orators have not learned grammar from elementary treatises upon it; they have been endeavouring to glean a portion of its laws, by the circuitous and uncertain mode of consulting men instead of books.

By perfection in the knowledge of language, and skill in the use of it, genius appears on the literary stage, decorated in its best attire; law flows from the seat of justice in all its native purity, and binding force, patriotism and liberty blaze in their genuine splendour; the press enjoying the privilege of rational freedom, teems with improvements in the arts and sciences, in policy and manners; and religion, from the mouth of the messenger of peace, like dew upon the parched field, sheds her refreshing influence upon the thirsty soul.

Ballinahinch. S. E.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE CULTURE OF HEMP.

IN our last number we gave extracts from the agricultural survey of Suffolk, to which we now add, the culture of hemp, as practised in the Isle of Ely and Somersetshire.

The land best calculated for hemp is light, rich, loamy ground—wet or stiff land will not answer: well drained bog, that has been burned and twice planted with potatoes, rape or turnips, will.

The ground to be ploughed in December, harrowed in March and ploughed; and at the time of sowing (which should be from the end of April to the end of May) then ploughed and harrowed, quite level.

Sow your seed broad-cast, twice harrowed, and rolled with a light roller.

Children should attend to keep off the birds until the plant is full two inches above the surface.

The quantity of seed, four bushels to the English acre, and so in proportion to the Irish.

To have what is termed white or summer hemp, you are to pull both male and female, when the flower begins to fall off the male, which will be about 12 or 13 weeks after sowing; tie it in small bundles, and let it stand for a few days in the stook, then bog it from five to ten days in soft clear water, according to the state of the weather. When fit to take out of the water, the green bark will slip off. Spread it on clean grass-land for 10 or 12 days, turning it at least twice. Let it be dry when taken off the grass, it will then be fit for breaking and scutching.

TO PRESERVE SEED.

You must pull the male hemp when the flower drops, taking care to pull paths for the labourers, at the distance of every four yards, so as not to break the female or seed hemp, which will be fit to pull about the middle of September. Tie it in small bundles at the top, and put five together in a stook, the centre bundle to be spread out at the bottom, and the other four round it. They should be left in the stook until perfectly dry, then stacked on a hovel, and let remain until March, when the seed is to be threshed out.

The hemp to be watered from 10 to 15 days, according to the weather, using the like process as with the male or summer hemp, taking care to clean your seed well and keep it dry.

Should the farmer not wish to keep his female hemp until March, he may thresh out the seed when pulled, and water his hemp, but it will require more time in the water in the cold season. The seed will not be so good or so easily preserved as when remaining in the stack.

The like process as practised with flax when taken off the grass, will answer for hemp to prepare for hackling.